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New Claims for USA Patent Application based on PCT GB2005/001195.

Please cancel existing claims 1 to 23 and replace with the following new claims.

24. A practice putting device comprising a single free-standing generally L-shaped housing having two limbs defining a corner, which in use is placed in a first position on a generally flat horizontal surface over which a golf ball can be putted towards the device, with the rear of one limb of the housing in contact with the flat surface and the other limb pointing in a generally upward direction, and wherein the upper surface of the said one limb presents a ramp up which a golf ball can roll towards an upper end of the ramp on being putted towards the device, and wherein the position of the upper end of the ramp relative to the corner between the two limbs is such that when in use a golf ball arrives at the upper end of the ramp a turning moment is created about the said corner, which becomes a fulcrum, about which the device pivots like a see saw from the said first position into a second position in which the rear of the said other limb is in contact with the said flat horizontal surface.
25. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein a turning moment about the fulcrum created by the weight of the said one limb is greater than that due to the weight of the said other limb acting in the opposite sense about the fulcrum, so that in the absence of a ball the device has only one stable position in which the said one limb is in contact with the support surface.
26. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein a turning moment of one limb about the fulcrum, is substantially the same as that due to the other limb, so that in the absence of a ball the device has two stable positions in which one or the other of the two limbs is in contact with the support surface.

27. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the upper surface of at least one of the two limbs is dished centrally so as to present a valley between two inclined sides, which in use assists in guiding a ball up or down the limb.
28. A device as claimed in claim 24 in which the said one limb has side cheeks to prevent a ball from rolling sideways off the first limb as it travels up the ramp.
29. A device as claimed in claim 24 in which the said other limb includes side cheeks so that a ball will not tend to roll off sideways.
30. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein side cheeks extend above and below each limb.
31. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein side cheeks extend above and below each limb and the side cheeks below the first limb extend beyond the junction between the two limbs on the underside of the device and the extensions constitute the fulcrum
32. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes an upper surface which when the device has rocked into the said second position presents a second ramp down which the ball can run and wherein the said other limb includes a barrier which in use prevents a ball from running off the said other limb and serves to retain the ball thereon, and wherein the weight of the ball serves to retain the device in its said second position with the ball trapped in place.
33. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes a recess in which a ball will nest so as in use to retain the ball in the device just beyond the fulcrum, so that the device will remain in its said second position.
34. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes an upper surface which when the device has rocked into the said second position presents a second ramp down which the ball can run and wherein the said other limb includes a barrier which

in use prevents a ball from running off the said other limb and serves to retain the ball thereon, the weight of the ball serving to retain the device in its said second position with the ball trapped in place and wherein the barrier forms a permanent feature of the construction of the said other limb.

35. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes an upper surface which when the device has rocked into the said second position presents a second ramp down which the ball can run and wherein the said other limb includes a barrier which in use prevents a ball from running off the said other limb and serves to retain the ball thereon, the weight of the ball serving to retain the device in its said second position with the ball trapped in place, and wherein the barrier is removable to allow a ball to leave the said other limb.
36. A device as claimed in claim 24 constructed so that in use as a golf ball arrives at the top of the ramp of the first limb, the centre of gravity of the combination of ball and device shifts beyond the fulcrum, measured in the direction of ball movement over the device, so that a previously stable equilibrium position of the device, its said first position, no longer exists, and with the ball retained in the device, it will pivot into a new position of stable equilibrium, its said second position, in which the first limb is now elevated and the said other limb occupies the down position.
37. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the rocking of the device into the second position signals that a ball putted towards the device would have been successfully "holed", on a green.
38. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes an upper surface which when the device has rocked into the said second position presents a second ramp down which the ball can run and leave the device, and wherein in the absence of a ball a turning moment created by the weight of the said one limb acting about the fulcrum is greater than the turning moment due to the weight of the said other limb acting in the opposite sense about the fulcrum so that in use, after a ball has run off the second ramp

the device will rock back and assume its said first position, ready to receive another putt.

39. A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the said other limb includes an upper surface which when the device has rocked into the said second position presents a second ramp down which the ball can run and wherein a turning moment of one limb about the fulcrum is substantially the same as that due to the other limb, so that in the absence of a ball the device has two stable positions in which one or the other of the two limbs is in contact with the support surface so that after a ball has rolled off the second ramp, the device will remain in its said second position ready to receive another putt, albeit this time from the opposite direction.
40. A device as claimed in claim 24 which is adapted to nest with other similar devices, so that a plurality of such devices can be stacked one in front of another, or one on top of another, for packing and transportation or display purposes.
41. A method of practice putting employing a device comprising a single free-standing generally L-shaped housing having two limbs defining a corner which in use serves as a fulcrum about which the device can rock like a see-saw, and which in use is placed in a first position with the rear of one limb in contact with the ground and the other limb pointing in a generally upward direction the upper surface of the said one limb comprising a ramp up which a golf ball can roll towards an upper end of the ramp on being putt towards the device, and wherein the position of the upper end of the ramp relative to the corner between the two limbs is such that when in use a golf ball arrives at the upper end of the ramp a turning moment is created about the fulcrum formed by the said corner, so that the device pivots from its said first position into a second position in which the rear of the said other limb is now in contact with the said flat horizontal surface and wherein the method comprises the steps of putting a golf ball towards the device so as to run up the ramp of the first limb so that the device will rock into its second position with the ball retained in the device denoting a successful putt, and after each successful putt, tapping the elevated limb of the device to cause it

to pivot backwards and revert to its former first position with the rear of the first limb once again flat on the ground, whereby in doing so the ball, which had been nested in the device, is now free to roll back down the ramp of the first limb and to leave the device in the direction from which it was putted, ready to be putted again towards the waiting device.

42. A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the putter is used to tap the device back into its said first position.
43. A method of practice putting employing a device comprising a single free-standing generally L-shaped housing having two limbs defining a corner which in use serves as a fulcrum about which the device can rock like a see-saw, and which in use is placed in a first position with the rear of one limb in contact with the ground and the other limb pointing in a generally upward direction, and wherein the upper surface of the said one limb presents a ramp up which a golf ball can roll towards an upper end of the ramp on being putted towards the device, and wherein the position of the upper end of the ramp relative to the corner between the two limbs is such that when in use a golf ball arrives at the upper end of the ramp a turning moment is created about the said fulcrum, about which the device pivots from the said first position into a second position in which the rear of the said other limb is in contact with the said flat horizontal surface, but wherein the turning moment created by the weight of the said one limb acting about the fulcrum in the absence of a ball, is greater than the turning moment due to the weight of the said other limb acting in the opposite sense about the fulcrum, so that in use the device will normally adopt its said first position when no ball is on the device, and wherein the method comprises the steps of putting a golf ball towards the device so as to run up the ramp of the first limb so as to cause the device to rock into its said second position in which the ball will run down and leave the second limb, thereby allowing the device to rock back into its first position, ready to receive another putt.